



What are we doing to save the Puaiohi?

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Kaua'i's Native Forest Birds

100 years ago

13 species of native birds lived in Kaua'i's forests.

Today

Only 8 remain, including the critically endangered Puaiohi (*Myadestes palmeri*).

What happened?

People brought new threats

1. Predators: Rats and feral cats
2. Diseases: Avian malaria, avian pox
3. Competition: From introduced bird species
4. Habitat change: Feral pigs, goats and exotic plants may have reduced food supply and nesting sites



Puaiohi

Natural Disasters

1. Hurricanes in 1982 and 1992 may have driven species with very small populations extinct

Puaiohi Biology

(*Myadestes palmeri*)

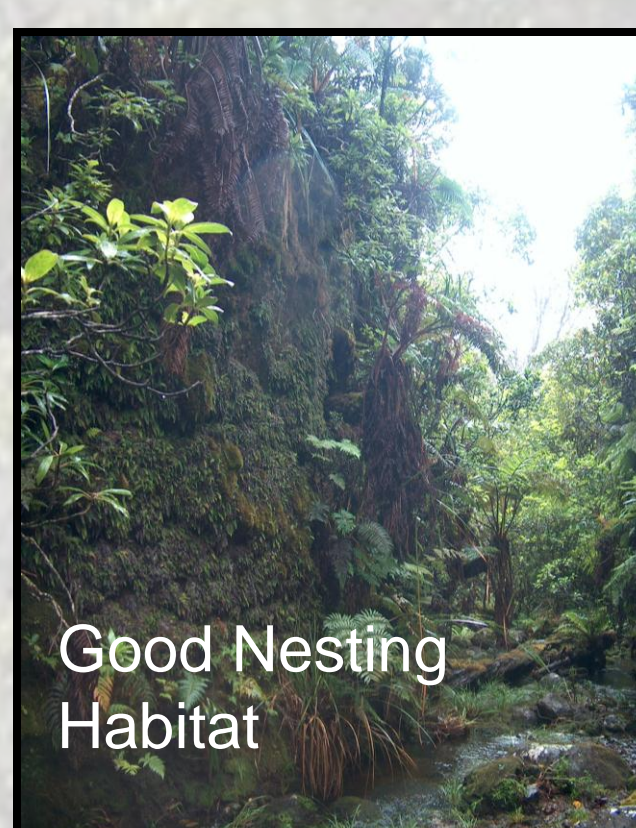
Also known as the Small Kaua'i Thrush, Puaiohi are endemic to Kaua'i. They inhabit deep, narrow valleys of the wet forest of the Alakai Swamp above 1000 m.



Puaiohi (photo courtesy of ZSSD)

Population Status

Population size is roughly estimated at **200-1000**. We don't know whether the population is steady, increasing or decreasing.



Good Nesting Habitat

Nesting

Puaiohi nest in cavities along streams on steep fern-covered walls. Each pair may raise up to 5 broods of 2 nestlings during a breeding season (April to September).



Nest



Pukiawe

Foraging

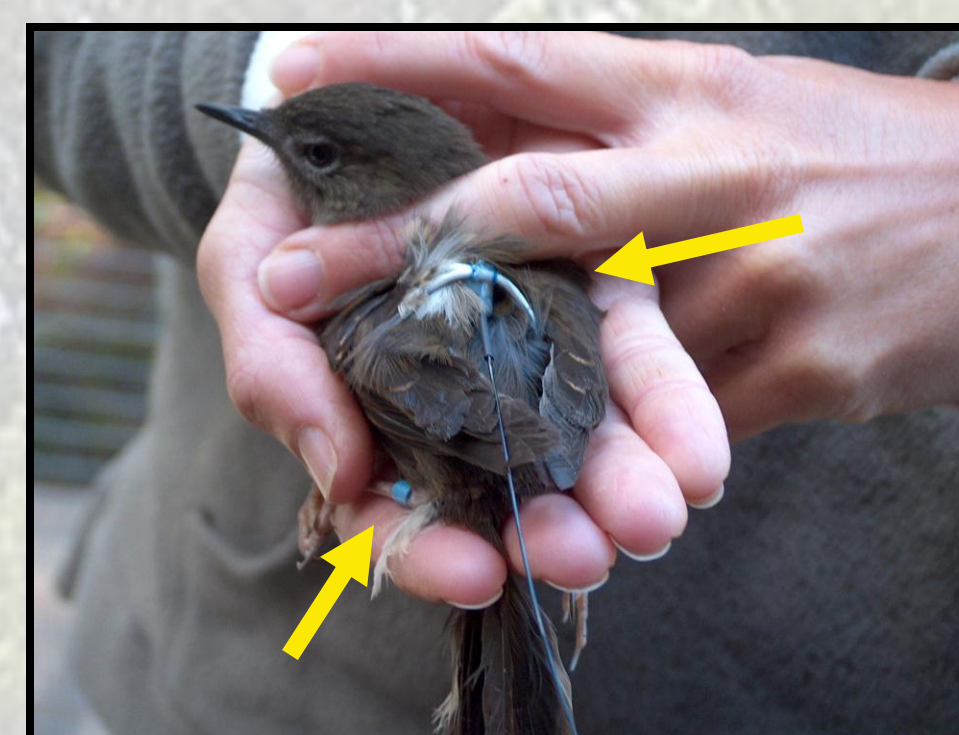
Puaiohi eat fruit from native plants including 'olapa, kanawao, lapalapa, 'ohelo, pukiawe and 'ohia ha. They also eat some insects.



'Ohelo

1. Emergency First Aid: Releasing Captive-bred Puaiohi

- 116 Puaiohi have been released into the Alakai since 1999
- 19 birds, bred in captivity on Maui and the Big Island, were released in 2006



1. Released Puaiohi are equipped with radio transmitters that last up to 80 days.

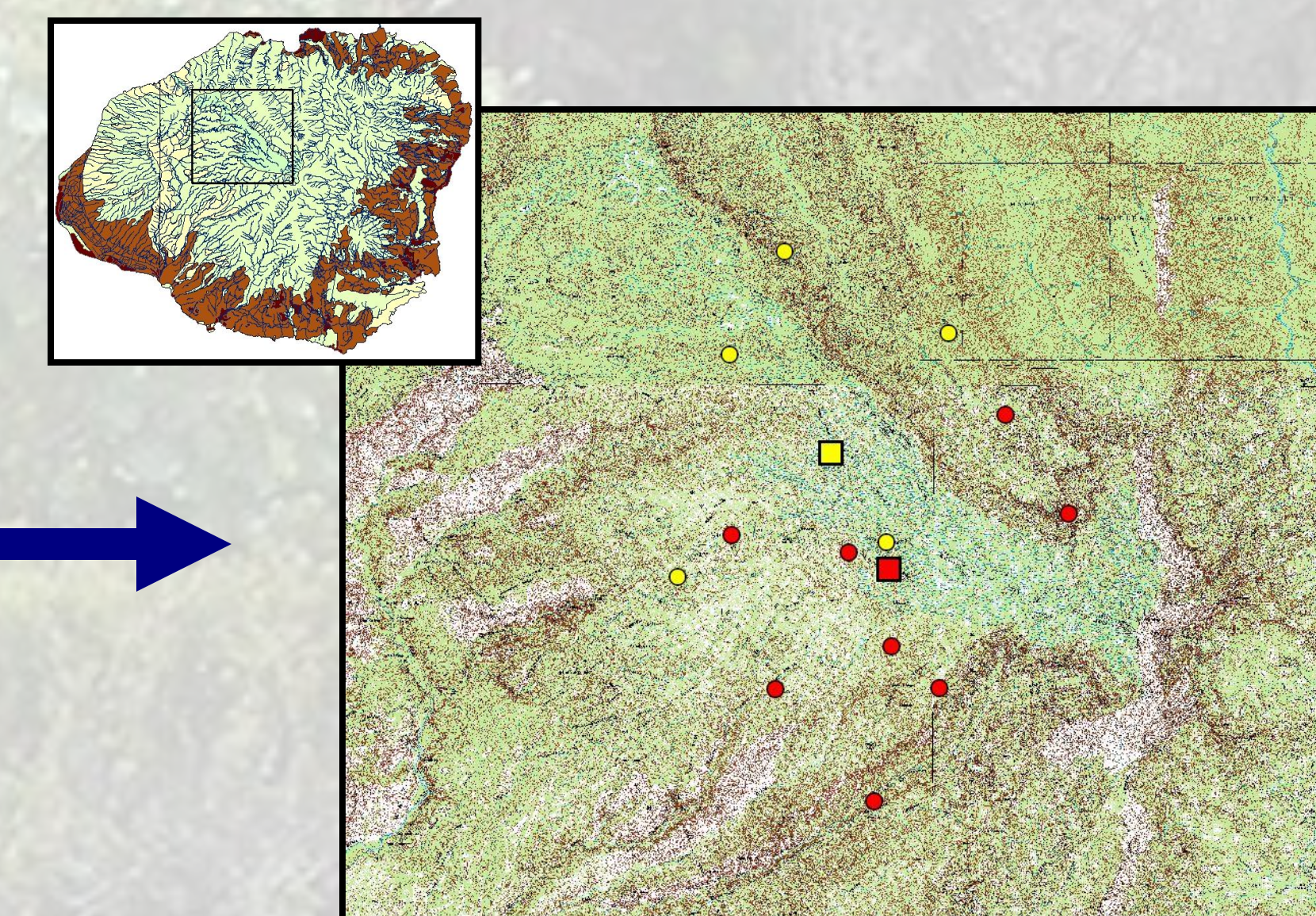
Birds are also fitted with colored leg bands for visual identification.



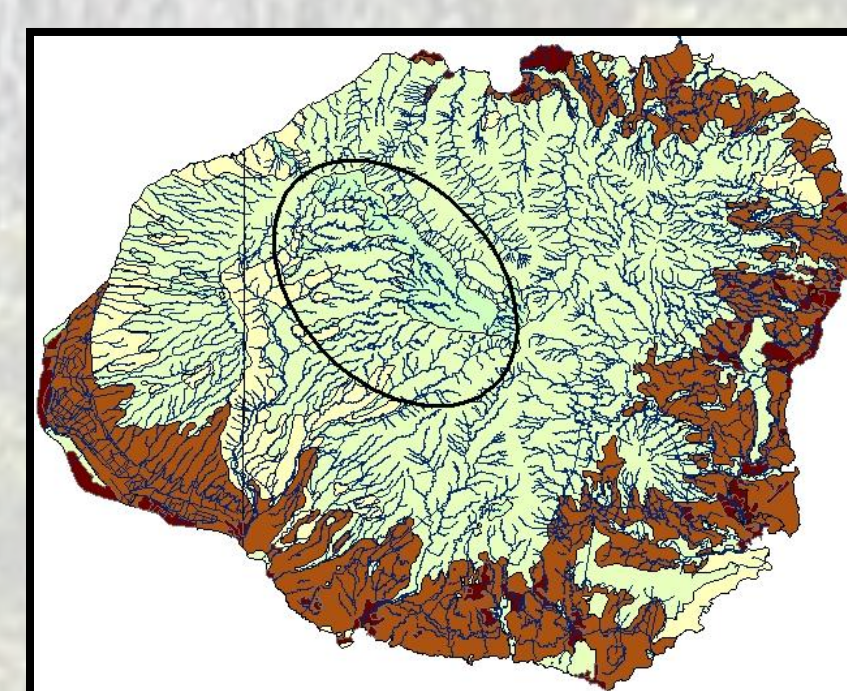
2. Released birds' movements and survival are followed using radio telemetry from the ground and from helicopters



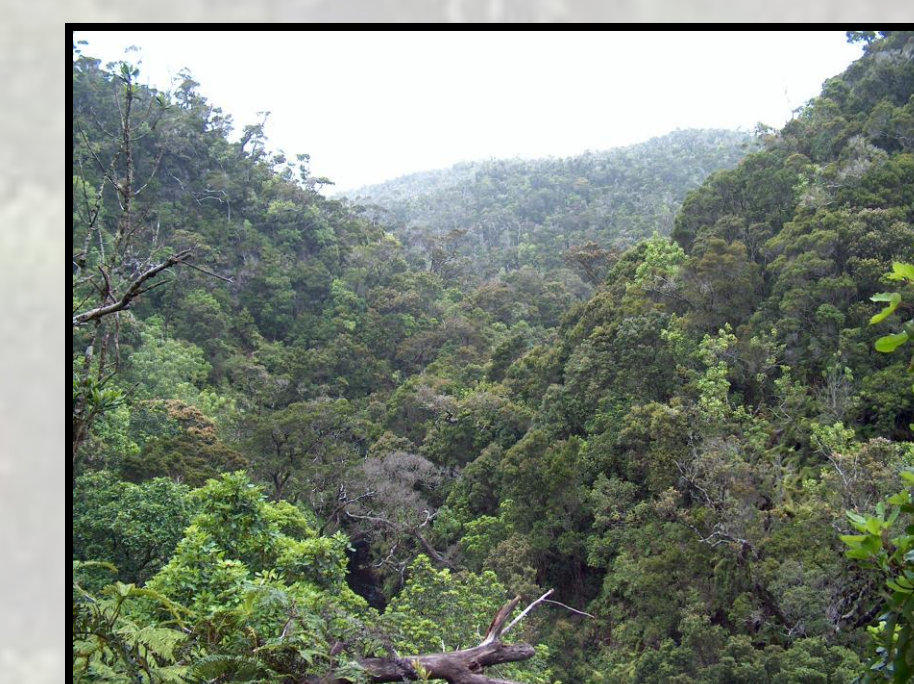
Dispersal in 2006



- Yellow square: "Remote Site"
- Yellow circle: 9 Puaiohi released
- Red square: Halepa'akai Base Camp
- Red circle: 10 Puaiohi released



Alaka'i Swamp

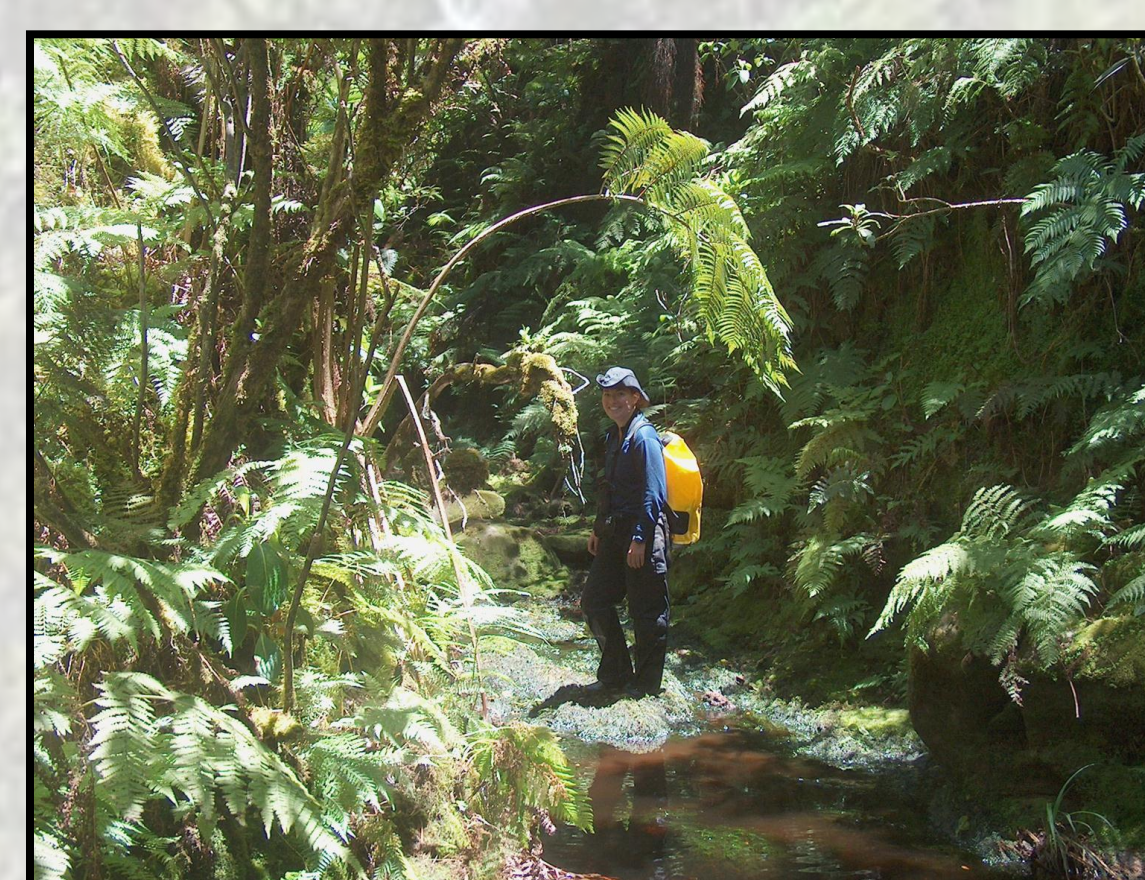


2. Long-term Solutions:

A. Identify factors limiting population growth

Population surveys: 2001-2005

- Provide data on population size and growth or decline
- Identify what habitat features are associated with Puaiohi



B. Possible Experimental Interventions



Photo courtesy of ZSSD

Control rat predation with rodenticide poison



Install predator-resistant nest boxes

Acknowledgements

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